

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

<sup>1</sup>  
Claim ~~2~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated-choline monooxygenase gene encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6.

<sup>2</sup>  
Claim ~~3~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (c) or (d):

(c) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5;

(d) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or 5, and which encodes a protein having choline monooxygenase activity.

<sup>3</sup>  
Claim ~~4~~ (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~2~~.

<sup>4</sup>  
Claim ~~5~~ (Original): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~4~~.

<sup>5</sup>  
Claim ~~6~~ (Original): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim ~~5~~ and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

~~6~~  
Claim ~~8~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated gene encoding a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17.

~~7~~  
Claim ~~9~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (g) or (h):

(g) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16;

(h) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:16 and which encodes a protein having signal peptide activity.

~~8~~  
Claim ~~10~~ (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~8~~ or ~~9~~ and a gene of interest.

~~9~~  
Claim ~~11~~ (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~10~~, wherein the isolated gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

~~10~~  
Claim ~~12~~ (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector according to claim ~~10~~, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite confers stress resistance to high salt conditions, drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

~~11~~  
Claim ~~13~~ (Original): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~10~~, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

<sup>12</sup>  
Claim ~~14~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~8~~<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> <sup>12</sup>  
Claim ~~15~~ (Original): The transformant according to claim ~~14~~, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>14</sup>  
Claim ~~16~~ (Currently Amended): ~~An environmental stress-resistant~~ A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~12~~<sup>10</sup> or ~~13~~ under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

<sup>15</sup> <sup>14</sup>  
Claim ~~17~~ (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim ~~16~~, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

Claims 18-22 (Cancelled).

<sup>16</sup>  
Claim ~~23~~ (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~8~~<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>17</sup>  
Claim ~~24~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~23~~<sup>16</sup>.

Claim ~~25~~<sup>18</sup> (Previously Presented): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim ~~24~~<sup>17</sup> and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim ~~26~~<sup>19</sup> (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~9~~<sup>7</sup> and a gene of interest.

Claim ~~27~~<sup>20</sup> (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein the gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

Claim ~~28~~<sup>21</sup> (Currently Amended): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite stress resistance to high salt conditions, drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

Claim ~~29~~<sup>22</sup> (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

Claim ~~30~~<sup>23</sup> (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~<sup>19</sup>.

Claim ~~31~~<sup>24</sup> (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~27~~<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>25</sup>  
Claim ~~32~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector  
<sup>21</sup>  
according to claim ~~28~~.

<sup>26</sup>  
Claim ~~33~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector  
<sup>22</sup>  
according to claim ~~29~~.

<sup>27</sup>  
Claim ~~34~~ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>23</sup>~~30~~, which is a  
plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>28</sup>  
Claim ~~35~~ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>24</sup>~~31~~, which is a  
plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>29</sup>  
Claim ~~36~~ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>25</sup>~~32~~, which is a  
plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>30</sup>  
Claim ~~37~~ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>26</sup>~~33~~, which is a  
plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>31</sup>  
Claim ~~38~~ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>27</sup>~~34~~, which is a  
plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>32</sup>  
Claim ~~39~~ (Currently Amended): ~~An environmental stress-resistant~~ A tobacco plant  
which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant  
vector according to claim <sup>11</sup>~~13~~ under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought  
conditions or both.

<sup>33</sup>  
Claim ~~40~~ (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim <sup>32</sup>~~39~~, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

<sup>34</sup>  
Claim ~~41~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim <sup>2</sup>~~3~~, which is  
(c).

<sup>35</sup>  
Claim ~~42~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim <sup>2</sup>~~3~~, which is  
(d).

<sup>36</sup>  
Claim ~~43~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim <sup>7</sup>~~9~~, which is  
(g).

<sup>37</sup>  
Claim ~~44~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim <sup>7</sup>~~9~~, which is  
(h).

<sup>38</sup>  
Claim ~~45~~ (New): A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim <sup>11</sup>~~13~~ under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

<sup>39</sup>  
Claim ~~46~~ (New): The plant according to claim <sup>38</sup>~~45~~, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.